

R E M A R K S

By this Amendment the specification has been amended on pages 5 and 8, claim 1 has been amended to include the feature of claim 2 and otherwise revised to better define the inventive material, claim 3 has been amended to be in independent form, and claims 4-6 have been amended to better define the intended subject matter. Entry is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because (1) claim 1 is unclear as to whether or not the article to be packed and the transporting vessel are positive limitations (combination claim), (2) what a "universal air cushioning material" is, and (3) what PE and PP stand for.

With respect to (1), the claims have been amended to clarify that the article to be packed and the transporting vehicle are not claimed features (limitations).

With respect to (2), the term "universal air cushioning material" is simply the term used to describe the inventive material.

With respect to (3), the specification and claims have been amended to clarify the layered character of the films used in the inventive material.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tschantz et al., and he has rejected claims 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tschantz et al.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tschantz et al., and he has rejected claims 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tschantz et al.

The applicant asserts that these rejections are incorrect.

Tschantz et al. disclose an inflatable cushion for surrounding a product to be shipped, the cushion having a raft-like design with individual compartments and which can fold to provide upright sides and a top portion.

The universal [versatile] air cushioning material of the present invention can protect an article to be packed from external impact force in a very simple way, by alternately providing air chambers and notch remains, and then projecting end portions of the air chambers than the articles to be packed (by providing air chambers 5a at the sections corresponding to notch remains 4a-2 and 4a-3 [see also Figs. 1 and 3]), at left and right side surfaces of the article to be packed (e.g., left and right parts of the articles to be packed of Fig. 2) or upper and lower portions of the article to be packed (e.g., portions of a bottom of the wine bottle and a crown cap thereof). On the other hand, the use of an inflatable packaging cushion of Tschanz et al. is limited to the article to be packed having a simple shape such as a rectangular solid, since the packaging cushion has a construction that completely covers the articles to be packed (when the article to be packed has a complicated shape, it is

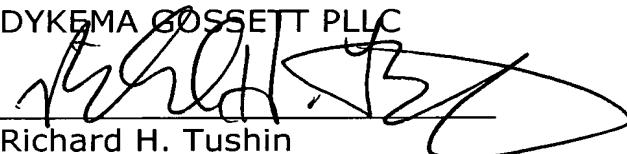
impossible to cover the whole article to be packed and impossible to sufficiently resist external impact force).

Thus, Tschantz et al. do not suggest nor disclose (1) "notch remains", (2) fixing [stabilizing] the article to be packed by "notch remains" and "air chambers", and (3) ability to resist external impact force by (A) the entire "air chambers" and (B) the end portions of the "air chambers" that outwardly project than "notch remains".

The examiner's prior art rejections should be withdrawn.

The additional government claims fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 04-2223.

Respectfully submitted,

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